



U.S. Department of Justice
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NEWS RELEASE

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WICHITA MAN CONVICTED OF BANK FRAUD

WICHITA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Marc Nickl**, 46, Wichita, Kansas, was convicted on September 7, 2004, in U.S. District Court in Wichita, Kansas, following a five day jury trial. Nickl was convicted of one count of executing a scheme to defraud a bank, one count of making false statements to a bank to obtain money, one count of aiding the acts of a bank employee to misapply funds, and one count of forfeiture.

Evidence presented at trial established that from September 20, 1999, through March 27, 2002, Nickl executed a scheme to fraudulently obtain money and funds from the National Bank of Andover. According to testimony, Nickl induced Paula Steward, a former National Bank of Andover employee, to use NBA funds to pay checks that had been written on two checking accounts, on which Nickl was a signator, when the accounts did not have sufficient funds to pay the checks resulting in a loss to the National Bank of Andover of approximately \$896,978.97.

Nickl faces a maximum of thirty years in federal prison, without parole, on each count. No sentencing date has yet been set.

In a related case, **Paula S. Steward**, 51, Andover, Kansas, was sentenced on September 22, 2003, to twenty-four months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by three years of supervised release, and ordered to pay \$896,755.35 in restitution. Steward entered a guilty plea on April 7, 2003, to one count of misapplying funds from the National Bank of Andover. Steward admitted at her plea that from September 20, 1999, through March 27, 2002, while an employee of the National Bank of Andover, she willfully misapplied funds of the National Bank of Andover by using bank funds to cover insufficient fund checks on two checking accounts of a bank customer.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the FBI in this investigation.

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